last several years. Government is examining various proposals to deal with the problem of HSCO incurring heavy losses.

Handling of drills by coal division of Geological Survey of India

2463. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD. Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Drills attached and handled by Coal Division of Geological Survey of India and their State-wise development;

(b) how many Directors (Geology) connected with geological investigation for coal resources are attached to Coal Division and where they are stationed;

(c) what is the number of geological investigations being carried out by Coal Division at present; and

(d) whether it is a fact that all Directors are operating from one station; if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) There are 51 drills attached to the Coal Division of Geological Survey of India. Their State-wise deployment is as follows:—

Andhra Pradesh . . .	7
Arunachal Pradesh . . .	1
Assam	1
Bihar	11
Madhya Pradesh . . .	12
Maharashtra	1
Meghalaya	1
Orissa	5
Tamil Nadu	2
West Bengal . . .	10

In addition 2 drills from Western Region are deployed in Rajasthan Lignite Investigation.

(b) There are 9 Directors (Geology) connected with geological activities in Coal Wing of Geological Survey of India. The Headquarters of these Directors is at Calcutta.

(c) The Coal Wing of GSI is carrying out 53 geological investigations during the current Field Season.

(d) The Headquarter of the Directors of Coal Wing is at Calcutta. This is for the purpose of achieving close coordination with the Deputy Director General (Coal) who is stationed at Calcutta, flexible programme of exploration strategy and close interaction between all Coal Directorates and the main user agency viz., Coal India Limited.

Regularisation of contingent workers in the coal division of GSI

2464. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of contingent workers appointed prior to 31st December, 1969 who are yet to be absorbed in regular posts in Coal Division of Geological Survey of India and the reasons for not regularising their services even after a period of 16 years; and

(b) the number of contingent workers regularised between 1st January, 1970 and 31st December, 1984 and their dates of appointment in contingent establishment?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) There are at present 18 contingent workers in the Coal Division of the Geological Survey of India who were engaged prior to 31.12.1969 who are yet to be absorbed in regular posts. The reasons for their non-regularisation is that some of them did not accept the posts offered to them to be regularised in, while others were found unsuitable for regularisation in spite of several chances given through interviews.

(b) A total of 172 contingent workers were regularised between 1st January, 1970 and 31st December, 1984. These